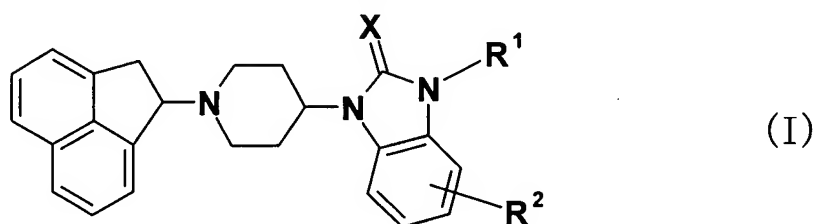


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein

R¹ is

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) lower alkyl,
- (3) lower alkenyl,
- (4) C(O) lower alkyl,
- (5) C(O)O lower alkyl,
- (6) C(O) phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (7) lower alkyl carboxyl,
- (8) lower alkyl C(O) phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (9) lower alkyl C(O)O lower alkyl,
- (10) lower alkenyl C(O)O lower alkyl,
- (11) lower alkyl O lower alkyl,
- (12) lower alkyl-C(O)NR³R⁴,
- (13) S(O)₂ lower alkyl,
- (14) S(O)₂ phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (15) lower alkyl S lower alkyl,
- (16) lower alkyl S(O) lower alkyl,

~~(17) lower alkyl-S(O)₂-lower alkyl,~~

~~(18) lower alkyl-S(O)₂NR³R⁴,~~

~~(19) phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy), or~~

~~(20) benzyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),~~

R² is hydrogen, lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, trifluoromethyl, nitro, amino or cyano, and

R³ and R⁴

may be the same or different, and each is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkenyl, or R³ and R⁴ may bind with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a saturated nitrogen-containing hetero ring (the hetero ring may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy), and

X— is O or S,

a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto[[,]] or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 10, wherein R² is hydrogen, and X is O a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 10, wherein R¹ is ~~C(O)-lower alkyl, lower alkyl-C(O)NR³R⁴~~ (either R³ or R⁴ is hydrogen) or lower alkyl-C(O)NR³R⁴ wherein R³ and R⁴ bind with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a saturated nitrogen-containing hetero ring (the hetero ring may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy), a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 10, which is selected from
~~(RS)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,~~
~~(R)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,~~

~~(S)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,~~
~~(R)-3-acetyl-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,~~
~~(R)-2-{3-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-benzoimidazol-1-yl}-N-~~
~~methylacetamide,~~
and

~~(R)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-3-(2-oxo-2-piperazin-1-ylethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-~~
~~benzoimidazol-2-one~~

a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 14-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing and/or treating a sleep disorder, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of claim 10, a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof to a patient.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the sleep disorder is a circadian rhythm sleep disorder.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is jet-lag syndrome.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is shift-work sleep disorder.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is a delayed sleep phase syndrome.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, used for preventing and/or treating symptoms involved in a geriatric circadian rhythm sleep disorder.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, used for bright light therapy.

28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the compound of claim 10, a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.